

Morehead State University Special Initiative **Kentucky Early College**

What is the Kentucky Early College?

This is a collaborative project among Morehead State University, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, and the Pike County Board of Education. It creates an Early College at Pike County Central High School that will allow participating students to earn up to two years of college credit while in high school. The project also includes distance learning for teacher professional development.

Why is a program like this needed?

The program will make a college degree more accessible, affordable, and attractive by bridging the transition between high school and college. The students will be rewarded with enrollment in college-level courses for mastery and competency of subject matter. The amount of time to earn a college degree will be compressed and the high school experience will be more meaningful.

How will this program benefit the Commonwealth?

The Kentucky Early College, which is modeled after the national "Early College Initiative," provides an important strategy for engaging Kentuckians more fully in education and encouraging high levels of educational attainment. The Kentucky Early College is a pilot project that will serve as a model to be replicated throughout Kentucky. Based on the results at Pike County Central High School, the model will be disseminated to school districts in eastern Kentucky initially and, ultimately, to any school district in Kentucky.

How does this program differ from other dual credit or middle college programs?

The Kentucky Early College will serve all interested and qualified students, not just low-income and first-generation students. The program will engage middle school students more fully through outreach and awareness activities. Also, students in the program will be given sustained guidance and support as they complete high school and earn an associate degree or credits toward a bachelor's degree.

Will the curriculum be adequately challenging?

Secondary and postsecondary faculty will work together to develop a curriculum that is rigorous and prepares students for college while completing the requirements for high school graduation. Placement testing policies and college-level expectations for math, writing, and reading consistent with state and national benchmarks will be developed.

What is the Council's request?

The Council seeks \$100,000 of recurring funds in FY 2007-08 to support the Kentucky Early College.



One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People